

Message Text

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R 111754Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 030841

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, JA

SUBJECT: DELAYED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF U.S. BIOCHEMICALS

1. A SHIPMENT OF BIOCHEMICALS FROM WORNE BIOCHEMICALS, INC. OF BERLIN, NEW JERSEY TO ITS JAPANESE DISTRIBUTOR, ENZYMES JAPAN, INC. (OSAKA), HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTOMS IN KOBE SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER 11 (INVOICE FOR SHIPMENT POUCHED). MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OFFICIALS AT KOBE PLANT INSPECTION OFFICE, EPIDEMIC PREVENTION DIVISION (MR. YAMAMOTO, SUPERVISOR), INITIALLY REQUIRED THAT WORNE SUPPLY CERTIFICATE STATING THAT SHIPMENT IN QUESTION IS PATHOGEN-FREE. WORNE HAS NOT ONLY COMPLIED WITH REQUEST (COPY POUCHED), BUT HAS ALSO SUPPLIED LISTS OF ALL BACTERIA INCLUDED IN ALL PRODUCTS MAKING UP SHIPMENT. TO THE BEST OF ITS KNOWLEDGE, WORNE HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL JAPANESE STANDARDS AND HAS FULFILLED ALL ADDITIONAL REQUESTS MADE BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS. ALL BIOCHEMICALS IN SHIPMENT IN QUESTION HAVE CLEARED JAPANESE CUSTOMS IN PAST WITH NO DELAY.

2. ACCORDING TO WORNE, KOBE PLANT INSPECTION OFFICE

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HAS BEEN ANALYZING WORNE BIOCHEMICALS SINCE NOVEMBER

AND HAS INDICATED THAT THEY CANNOT CLEAR CUSTOMS UNTIL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. WORNE AND ENZYMES JAPAN ARE CONCERNED THAT BOTH THE ORIGINALLY INTENDED BUYERS OF THESE PRODUCTS AND INTERESTED NEW CUSTOMERS WILL BE LOST IF BIOCHEMICALS DO NOT CLEAR CUSTOMS SOON.

3. AMCONSUL IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT KOBE PLANT INSPECTION OFFICE, INVESTIGATE PRESENT SITUATION OF WORNE SHIPMENT, AND UNDERTAKE TO FACILITATE ITS CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. EARLY REPORT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. INGERSOLL

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